

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 AF-10

ARA-16 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EA-11 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 051846Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 420

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

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BEIRUT PASS USINT DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, XF, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF PORTION OF APRIL 4 TELEGRAM
FROM BELGIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY. BELGIAN
GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE CITED AS SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION.

2. QUOTE: CONCERNING CONTROVERSY BETWEEN DAYAN AND PENTAGON ON
SUBJECT OF SYRIAN ARMAMENTS, I TRANSMIT TO YOU FOLLOWING INFOR-
MATION COLLECTED FROM MILITARY ATTACHES OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.
FIRST, RESERVE UNITS OF SYRIAN ARMY HAVE BEEN REINFORCED WITH
T-62 TANKS, TRANSPORTABLE ARTILLERY, AND MISSILES WITH REDUCED
RANGE OF TEN TO FIFTEEN KILOMETERS (ARTILLERIE PORTEE ET
MISSILES PORTEE REDUITE DIX A QUINZE KM). SECOND, CONSIDERABLE
REINFORCMENT OF MEANS OF ANIT-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE WITH SAM SIX
AND SAM SEVEN MILLILES AND INCREASING NUMBER OF RADAR BASES.
THIRD, ACQUISITION OF LONG-RANGE VECTORS (VECTEURS DE LONGUE
PORTEE) OF UP TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY KILOMETERS. THEY DO NOT
SEEM TO BE EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS BUT POSSIBILITY
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EXISTS. FOURTH, NO MIG-23'S HAVE BEEN SPOTTED UP TO NOW BUT

SYRIA MAY POSSESS SU-11 AND SU-20 HIGH ALTITUDE FIGHTER BOMBERS. FIFTH, CUBAN TROOPS PROBABLY DO NOT NUMBER AS MUCH AS A BRIGADE, BUT ONLY A BATTALION, I.E., ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED MEN DISTRIBUTED IN COMMANDO UNITS. THEY RECENTLY TOOK PART IN OPERATIONS AND HAD AT LEAST TWO KILLED SENT BACK TO CUBA. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF THEM MAKE UP TEAMS FOR SOVIET TANKS. IT IS CERTAIN THEY ARE NOT INSTRUCTORS. NORTH KOREANS, ON OTHER HAND, HAVE SERVED FOR LONG TIME AS INSTRUCTORS FOR SYRIANS AVIATION. THEY BECAME OPERATIONAL AFTER OCTOBER WAR TO REPLACE PAKISTANIS. PRESENTLY FILL VOID LEFT BY SYRIAN PILOTS SENT TO USSR FOR TRAINING IN OPERATION OF SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING MIG-23 AND OTHER. UNQUOTE. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRUSSE02075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740078-0497
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740463/aaaachnp.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS
TAGS: MCAP, XF, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005